

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
ABINGDON DIVISION**

**CRIMINAL MINUTES – JURY TRIAL  
Day 11**

**Case No.: 1:17CR27**

**Date: 12/18/2024**

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**Defendant: Joel Smithers, Custody**

**Counsel: Beau Brindley, Retained  
Edward McDavid, Retained  
Michael Thompson, Retained**

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PRESENT: JUDGE: James P. Jones  
Deputy Clerk: Felicia Clark  
Court Reporter: Cynthia Bragg, OCR  
U. S. Attorney: Randy Ramseyer, Corey Hall, & Suzanne Kerney-Quillen  
USPO: Not Present  
Case Agent: Patrick Long

Time In Court: 9:04 a.m. – 10:32 a.m.  
10:55 a.m. – 12:12 p.m.  
2:31 p.m. – 3:46 p.m.

TOTAL TIME IN COURT: 4 hours

**LIST OF WITNESSES**

<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>DEFENDANT</b>
1.	1. Joel Smithers 2. Dr. James Murphy

**PROCEEDINGS:**

- ☒ Defendant presents evidence.  
☒ Defendant remanded to custody.

**Additional Information:**

9:04 a.m. – Jury Trial – Day 11 held. All parties were present and ready to proceed. Court discussed the government’s proposed plea agreement with the defendant. Defendant rejected plea

agreement. Jurors were brought into the courtroom. Court recessed at 10:32 a.m. Court resumed at 10:55 a.m. Jurors were released for the day to return on 12/19/24 at 9:00 a.m. Juror Stowers was excused from the remainder of the jury trial. Outside the presence of the jury, court discussed additional proposed jury instructions with counsel. Court will reconvene at 2:30 p.m. to discuss jury instructions with counsel. Court recessed at 12:12 p.m. Court resumed at 2:31 p.m. Court discussed proposed jury instructions with counsel. Oral argument by counsel. Court adjourned at 3:46 p.m. Defendant was remanded to custody.